

Rejected:

Coburn Amendment No. 891, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should offset the cost of new spending. (By 59 yeas and 38 nays (Vote No. 134), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S4662–65, S4665–66

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 93 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 133), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, April 20, 2007.

Page S4666

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 19, 2007.

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Appointments:

Congressional Award Board: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Senator Isakson.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Frederick B. Cook, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

Joseph Adam Ereli, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Reuben Jeffery III, of the District of Columbia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs).

Reuben Jeffery III, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the Inter American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the African Development Fund; United States Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank; and United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

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Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Enrique J. Sosa, of Florida, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

Pages S4702–16

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S4716–17

Privileges of the Floor:

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Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—134)

Pages S4634, S4636, S4666

Adjournment: Senate convened at 8:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:24 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4722.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine economic challenges and opportunities facing American agricultural producers today, focusing on livestock, poultry and competition issues relating to the reenactment of the Farm Bill, after receiving testimony from Peter C. Carstensen, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison; Lynn A. Hayes, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc., Saint Paul, Minnesota; Mary K. Muth, RTI International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; Eric Nelson, R-CALF USA, Merville, Iowa; John Queen, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Waynesville, North Carolina; Joy Philippi, National Pork Producers Council, Bruning, Nebraska; Ron Truex, Creighton Brothers, LLC, Warsaw, Indiana, on behalf of the United Egg Producers; Burdell Johnson, American Sheep Industry Association, Tuttle, North Dakota; William P. Roenigk, National Chicken Council, Washington,

D.C. Tim Schmidt, Hawarden, Iowa; and Scott Hamilton, Phil Campbell, Alabama.

APPROPRIATIONS: HEALTH PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for maternal and child health, and family planning and reproductive health after receiving testimony from Kent Hill, Assistant Administrator for Global Health, United States Agency International Development (USAID); Nils Daulaire, Global Health Council, and Laurie Garrett, Council on Foreign Relations, both of Washington, D.C.; and Helene Gayle, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Atlanta, Georgia.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy after receiving testimony from Thomas P. D'Agostino, Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, United States Department of Energy.

BUDGET: DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel with the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a joint hearing to examine the readiness impact of quality of life and family support programs to assist families of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve military personnel in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Senator Chambliss; Michael L. Dominguez, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Lynda C. Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Military Personnel Policy; John McLaurin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Human Resources; Lieutenant General Roger A. Brady, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel, Headquarters, United States Air Force; Joyce Wessel Raezer, National Military Family Association, Alexandria, Virginia; and certain other public witnesses.

FREE TRADE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of current United States trade policy, after receiving testimony from Leo Hindery, Jr., InterMedia Partners, New York, New York; Lori Wallach, Public

Citizen, Christopher Wenk, United States Chamber of Commerce, and Edward Gresser, all of Washington, D.C.; and John Johnston, Modern Metal Cutting, LLC, Akron, Ohio.

COAST GUARD: BUDGET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Coast Guard, after receiving testimony from Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr. to be Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

TAX GAP

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine the Administration's plan for addressing the issue of taxpayers' compliance with their federal tax obligations and the extent to which taxpayers do not file their tax returns and pay the correct tax on time, focusing on goals, benchmarks, and timetables for reducing noncompliance, receiving testimony from Henry M. Paulson, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of R. Niels Marquardt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of Comoros, Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, and Phillip Carter III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S.1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Douglas G. Myers, of California, Jeffrey Patchen, of Indiana, Lotsee Patterson, of Oklahoma, all to be Members of the National Museum and Library Services Board, Stephen W. Porter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, and Cynthia Allen Wainscott, of Georgia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, and promotion lists for the Public Health Service.

ELECTION EXPENDITURES

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1091, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to repeal the limitation on party expenditures on behalf of candidates in general elections, after receiving testimony from John Samples, Cato Institute, Marc E. Elias, Perkins Coie LLP, Fred Wertheimer, Democracy 21, Thomas E. Mann, Brookings Institution, Gary Kalman, United States Public Interest Research

Group, and Michael J. Malbin, Campaign Finance Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

SARBANES-OXLEY ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (Public Law 107-204) and its impact on small public companies, after receiving testimony from Christopher Cox, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Mark W. Olson, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, Washington, D.C.; Thomas R. Venables, Benjamin Franklin Bank, on behalf of the American Bankers Association, and Joseph Piche, Eikos, Inc., both of Franklin, Massachusetts; and Richard Wasielewski, Nortech Systems, Inc., Wayzata, Minnesota.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 1905-1936; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 116-119; and H. Res. 315-317, 320-321, were introduced. **Pages H3559-61**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3561-62**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 317, providing for consideration of H.R. 1905, to provide for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a Congressional district for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives and providing for consideration of H.R. 1906, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the estimated tax payment safe harbor based on income for the preceding year in the case of individuals with adjusted gross income greater than \$5 million (H. Rept. 110-98);

H. Res. 318, providing for consideration of H.R. 363 to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships (H. Rept. 110-99);

H. Res. 319, providing for consideration of H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and develop-

ment of water and related resources and to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States (H. Rept. 110-100); and

H.R. 1281, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain deceptive practices in Federal elections, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110-101). **Page H3559**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Eshoo to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H3481**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Ron Jackson, East Gaffney Baptist Church, Gaffney, South Carolina. **Page H3481**

Calendar Wednesday: On a call of committees pursuant to the Calendar Wednesday rule, no bills were called up for consideration. **Page H3481**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measures:

Offering heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families regarding the horrific violence at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, and to the students, faculty, administration and staff and their families who have been deeply affected by the